What is Claimed is:

1. A fusion protein comprising:
   a) a polypeptide comprising a reporter amino acid sequence;
   b) a second polypeptide fused to said reporter amino acid sequence; and
   c) a leader sequence fused to a terminus of said fusion protein.

2. The fusion protein of claim 1, wherein said polypeptide is a somatostatin receptor polypeptide.

3. The fusion protein of claim 1, wherein said polypeptide is a somatostatin type 2 receptor polypeptide.

4. The fusion protein of claim 1, wherein said polypeptide is a mutant human somatostatin receptor in which all or part of the cytoplasmic tail has been deleted.

5. The fusion protein of claim 4, wherein said polypeptide is a mutant human somatostatin receptor in which the portion of the cytoplasmic tail C-terminal to amino acid 314 has been deleted.

6. The fusion protein of claim 1, wherein said second polypeptide is a protein fusion tag.

7. The fusion protein of claim 6, wherein said second polypeptide is hemagglutinin A.

8. The polypeptide of claim 1, wherein said leader sequence is the Igκ leader sequence.

9. The polypeptide of claim 3, wherein said leader sequence is the Igκ leader sequence.

10. An isolated nucleic acid encoding the fusion protein of claim 1.

11. An expression vector comprising the nucleic acid of claim 10, operably linked to a promoter.

12. A host cell transformed with the vector of claim 11.

13. An isolated nucleic acid encoding the fusion protein of claim 6.

14. An expression vector comprising the nucleic acid of claim 13, operably linked to a promoter.

15. A host cell transformed with the vector of claim 14.

16. A method of assaying for the expression of a fusion protein comprising:

a) transferring a gene into a host cell with an expression vector according to claim 10; and

b) assaying expression based upon the chemical, physical or biological properties of said fusion protein.

17. The method of claim 16, wherein the gene transfer takes place *in vivo*.

18. The method of claim 16, wherein the expression of said vector is assayed by contacting said host cell with a ligand that binds with specificity to a somatostatin receptor, or mutated somatostatin receptor, and wherein said ligand has been detectably labeled.

19. The method of claim 16, wherein the expression of said vector is assayed by contacting said host cell with a ligand that binds with specificity to a somatostatin type 2 receptor, or mutated somatostatin type 2 receptor, and wherein said ligand has been detectably labeled.

20. The method of claim 18, wherein said ligand is radioactively labeled somatostatin analog.

21. The method of claim 18, wherein said ligand is radioactively labeled octreotide.

22. The method of claim 16, wherein the expression of said vector is assayed by contacting said host cell with an antibody that binds with specificity to said fusion protein.

23. The method of claim 20, wherein said antibody binds with specificity to hemagglutinin A.

24. The method of claim 16, wherein said the expression of said vector is assayed based upon the enzymatic activity of said fusion protein.

25. The method of claim 24, wherein said enzymatic activity is chloramphenicol acetyl transferase activity.

26. A DNA construct comprising segments encoding:

a) a reporter protein; and

b) a second polypeptide fused to said receptor, wherein said second polypeptide provides a tag for independently quantitating the expression of said fusion protein.

27. The DNA construct of claim 26, wherein said reporter protein is a receptor.

28. The DNA construct of claim 26, further comprising: a leader sequence fused to either said reporter or said second polypeptide.

29. The DNA construct of claim 27, wherein said receptor is a somatostatin type 2 receptor or the somatostatin type 2 receptor in which one or more mutations have been introduced.

30. The DNA construct of any one of claim 28, wherein said second polypeptide is tag.

31. A method of assaying the ability of a mutated receptor to bind a ligand comprising:

a) transfecting a cell with the DNA construct of claim 28 wherein said DNA construct encodes said mutated receptor or other reporter;

b) quantitating expression of the fusion protein by assaying a signal derived from a reporter or a detectably labeled ligand to said receptor or other reporter; and

c) normalizing the value determined in step b) by quantitating expression of the fusion protein encoded by said DNA construct using said second polypeptide.

32. The method of claim 31, wherein said mutated receptor is the somatostatin type 2 receptor in which one or more mutations have been introduced.

33. The method of claim 31, wherein the second polypeptide in said DNA construct is a tag.

34. An imaging method comprising detecting the expression of somatostatin fusion protein *in vivo*.

35. The method of claim 34, wherein the somatostatin fusion protein comprises a carboxy terminal mutation.

36. The method of claim 35, wherein the carboxy terminal mutation comprises the deletion of amino acids beyond amino acid 314.